DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted).
Corner of South Temple and East Temple Streets Salt Lake City, Utah.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):

One Year	$9.00
Six Months	4.50
Three Months	2.25
One Month	.75
Saturday Edition, Per Year	2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year	2.00

NEW YORK OFFICE
In charge of H. F. Cummings, manager Foreign Advertising, from our Home Office, 1127 Park Row Building, New York.

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 742 Geary St.

Correspondence and other reading matter for publication should be addressed to the EDITOR.
Address all business communications and all remittances:
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 4, 1904

CLEAN UP!

It has been observed that nearly always in the fall, when the temperature changes, houses are heated up, and school children are crowded together in more or less well ventilated rooms, contagious diseases make their appearance, especially in the cities. Sanitary authorities now-a-days account for this fact by pointing out that it is more difficult to observe the laws of cleanliness at this time of the year. The return to indoor life, the close association of all sorts of people in dusty, overcrowded street cars, in amusement halls, and other public places; the mud that is deposited in carpets, the dust that is whirled about in the air, coming perhaps from filthy places—all these are factors in the spread of epidemics.

No more striking proof of this proposition has ever been given to the world, than the elimination from Havana of the yellow fever, by cleaning the city up thoroughly. The disease was thought to be in the climate. It was not. It originated in the accumulated filth that no one thought of removing.

The fact suggests the most effective preventive against disease—cleanliness. Thoughtlessness and ignorance are mostly responsible for the scattering broadcast of disease germs. When dirt is reduced in any community, there always is corresponding improvement in the health of the people. But it is not to be expected that health officials alone can accomplish a great deal, unless they are supported by the individual citizens. The latter must look after their own premises, and keep them free from litter, and especially from decaying vegetation. Unless each citizen will faithfully perform his part in the work of cleanliness, the public labor, such as street cleaning, inspection of water, milk, food, etc., will avail but little. And if there is expense attached to the task of keeping houses, alleys, and yards absolutely clean, it is well to remember that it is nevertheless less expensive than sickness.

PORT ARTHUR AND, AFTER.

Advices from Chefoo are to the effect that Port Arthur is now, virtually, at the mercy of the Japanese. Chefoo dispatches have not formerly been noted for reliability, but this time they are said to be authentic, and they certainly agree with the latest word received from the defender. General Stoessel, notifying the world that his resources were about exhausted, and that it only remained for him to make the besieged city his grave.

With the fall of Port Arthur an important chapter of the present war closes. In the history of Russia it may mark an epoch. It means that that country has suffered the greatest defeat its armies have ever sustained in Asia. Japan has all but annihilated her Pacific squadron, pierced the Manchurian frontier and compelled the Russian land forces to retreat from one position to another, and, when Port Arthur is taken, driven the Muscovites away from a position supposedly impregnable.

All this may be but preludes to events of vast consequences. With Japan established on the Asiatic continent, Russia's ambition for an outlet in that direction, and for expansion at the expense of the Mongolians receives an effective check. This will cause that country to look in other directions for the open harbors she covets. Her defeat in eastern Asia means renewed intrigues in other parts of the world.

It is idle to speculate on the consequences of complete Japanese victory; but it is absolutely certain that Japanese ambition will not be satisfied by a protectorate over Corea and open markets in Manchuria. A nation, intoxicated by victories and guided by ideals such as those that are inspiring the Mikado's subjects to great deeds, will not rest long on its wreaths. The defeat of Russia may possibly mean a consolidation of Asiatic forces under the leadership of the conqueror, such as the world has never before seen. This is within the range of possibility. In fact, Japan is said to have labored in some such plan for years, and it is believed that the doctrine of "Asia for the Asiatics" has enthusiastic adherents everywhere, even in India. The future is fraught with great events, and, without doubt, Japanese victories mean an entirely new epoch of human history.

WHAT IS THE GOOD OF IT?

The political campaign in Idaho, through the intrigues of the chief agitators for a new party, composed of the anti-"Mormon" elements in all the existing parties and factions, has become almost entirely, on one side at least, a debate on the alleged "Mormon" question. Persons whose lives are notoriously inconsistent with their hypocritical platitudes about "the purity of the home," are avoiding both the national and the local party issues and spending their breath and their time in fulminations and denunciations against the "Mormon" Church, and in arousing prejudice and animosity for the purpose of disrupting the cordial relations existing among neighbors of differing religious faiths. The question is what is the good of it all?

Rabid and vicious as are the utterances of their Utah associates, and despicable as are the methods adopted by the latter, the vile stories invented by the Idaho wing of the conspiracy outrank them in turpitude and mendacity—which would seem impossible but by comparison. The question is asked both here and there why are not steps taken to prosecute the libellers and stop the swelling tide of falsehood and infamy? Well, friends, there is a time for all things and just now perhaps patience is better than retaliation, and it may be just as well for all proper purposes to let the poor miserable creatures show how mean, cowardly and contemptible they really are.

We notice from Idaho papers that Hon. W. E. Borah of Boise, mong other reputable and able Idaho gentlemen, is boldly in the front in showing up the falsehood and infamy of the agitators and their associates. From the Pocatello Tribune we take some paragraphs giving an account of a great meeting in Pocatello on Tuesday evening, and the remarks of Mr. Borah, and here append them to show the atrocious character of the charges against the "Mormons" made by the faction alluded to. After taking up the national and local questions at issue between the two great parties, the speaker referred to the individuals engaged in maligning the "Mormons" and said:

"The campaign now being carried on in the north by three or four speakers under the direction of Dubois and under the name of the Democratic party would not be believed by those who have not been there to hear and see. In the first place, they boldly charge that the Mormon people, as a people, are of a criminal class. They have passed beyond the charge of polygamy and now charge that as a people the Mormons are of a foreign extraction, low bred, ignorant and criminal by training and instinct. That they are unfriendly to our institutions and laws and that, as a people, they are clannish; live unto themselves and that all kinds of crimes, child murder, wife murder, cruelty, shameless and unmentionable crimes everywhere prevail.

"Mrs. White from Pennsylvania has her secret meetings for women alone and I am told the story which she tells about southeastern Idaho, a land to which she is a stranger, could find no parallel outside the Whitechapel districts of London or the brothels of New York. Up there they will tell the voter there is no way to control this awful condition except by disfranchisement of the Mormon people.

"When asked why the Gentile men and especially the Gentile women of southeastern Idaho remain silent in the midst of such awful conditions, they do not hesitate to say that the slime of the serpent is over them all; that business considerations cause the Gentiles to either remain silent or actually connive at these conditions by them claimed to exist. They would leave the inference throughout the north that for a few paltry dollars the Gentile men and women look with indifference and silent lips upon the most atrocious crimes known to men. In their desperation they have veered away from the presentation of those questions which properly belong to the history and status of the Mormon people and include in their foul and baseless slanders the whole population of southeastern Idaho.

"You can imagine the effect of such statements with those with whom they find lodgment and credence. It will take years with such to remove it, and its effect in all matters more than in politics wil be long felt. The charge of polygamy is the least of their charges; it is not sufficient to satisfy; they paint in universal shame, a fallen, greed-controlled, lust-ridden, lawless and shameless community. The Democratic press which is not supporting them they say has been bought up, and so the story goes on; the integrity of men is challenged, the honor of women is clouded, a community libelled, a state slandered and discredited in order that the false pretense at Lewiston may work fruition to its originators.

"I say to you tonight, and my appeal is to the true Democrat as well as the Republican, and to all men who believe in Idaho and stand by her, that you have no interest, no place in such a fight. It is a guerrilla warfare. It is no longer a question of politics, of partisanship, it is a question of state pride and state loyalty. It is a question of standing up for Idaho against the foul slanders of those birds of passage, who will, on the 9th of November, seek another clime and leave us after all to work out our own salvation."

LAKES DRYING UP.

The report comes from Central Africa that Lake Shirwa, a sheet of water, discovered by Doctor Livingstone in 1859, southeast of Lake Nyassa, has entirely disappeared, with the exception of a few small ponds in its bed. In Livingstone's day the lake was about thirty miles long and from ten to fifteen miles wide. Lake Ngami, also discovered by Livingstone, has since disappeared. The cause of the changes appears to be a gradual drying up of bodies of water in Central Africa. The report is of exceptional interest, as it furnishes proof of the rapidity with which geological changes occur on the surface of the earth.

Some time ago an article in Youth's Companion set forth some of the changes that have taken place in the regions of the Sahara, illustrating the same truth. Lieutenant Colonel Peroz, of the French army, has studied this subject thoroughly. According to him, only a short time ago, as geologists measure time, the Niger received from the left immense affluents, veritable floods, rising even in the lofty mountains about the plateau of Hogar, the highest region of central Sahara. Then giraffes and elephants wandered even to the borders of Mediterranean Numidia, seeking the abundant vegetation.

With the Mohammedan inundation conditions changed. The conquerors, the French explorer says, burned over great tracts of land, destroying vegetation and leaving nothing to hold the fallen water in check. The hygrometric state of the atmosphere was impoverished. The vapor no longer was condensed. The soil and rocks were left exposed to the direct action of heat and cold, and of the winds. The decomposition of the granite filled the dry river-beds with sand for great distances.

The rapidity of the onward march of the wilderness is illustrated by the fact that Barth, the German explorer, found water in abundance, fifty years ago, where Colonel Peroz's expedition suffered from thirst.

The desert seems to be continually encroaching upon the territory once under civilization. Lakes and rivers are drying up, and sand is accumulating. The struggle of man against the natural forces, in most places of the earth, must be continuous. If it is given up, the earth will be desolate. Countries that once were capable of sustaining millions, are now deserts, because the conflict with stern nature was given up. It is time for some mighty power to conquer Sahara. By all accounts the regions around it are fertile and delightful, but if it is left to itself, it will change them into a wilderness.

The burglars continue to lead a strenuous life.

Many will find the polls no better than snubbing posts.

Just now arbitration treaties are the order of the day. And a splendid order it is.

The loss of the Arrow was due to the fact that it wouldn't stand without hitching.

With the fall of Port Arthur the Russians should take a tumble to themselves.

Patti is going to make an automobile tour of America. This is better than a farewell tour.

The Japanese are said to have Port Arthur at their mercy. Then let them be merciful.

The Panamans have just celebrated the first anniversary of their independence. Many happy returns of the day.

So little is now heard of the North Sea incident that Great Britain and Russia seem to have said "Trawl-a-la" to it.

The right of eminent domain has been accorded railroad companies in the Philippines. That is eminently right and proper.

When the Berkeley boys went into rebellion, they merely wanted to show Captain Nance that they were not a lot of Miss Nancys.

At the beginning of the campaign Judge Parker was very silent and refused to talk but he is making up for lost time.

A Brooklyn physician says that music is a great curative agent. According to the poet it even hath charms to sooth the savage ear.

Already the straps in the subway cars are occupied to the utmost. The reason is that the satraps of the way refuse to furnish enough seats.

When the Preacher said there is "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance," he must have been thinking of election time and the aftermath.

The French consul at Chicago has published a volume of poems about that city. A man who can get poetry out of Chicago doubtless could gather figs from thistles if he should try.

The Mikado's birthday and the anniversary of the Czar's accession to the throne coincide, but how different are the feelings of the two rulers on that day! The Czar must almost want to cry with Job, "Let the day perish wherein I was born."

The cope stolen from the cathedral at Ascoli, Italy, has been presented to the Italian government by J. Pierpont Morgan, who purchased it. It was the only thing to do, but that fact does not detract from the merit of Mr. Morgan's action. He has acted as becomes a gentleman.

It is conceded by everybody that Japan has proven herself one of the foremost military nations of the world. Great Britain has officially recognized this fact by the issuance of an order that four officers will annually be selected for a two years' course of study in Japan. It is a delicate compliment to that country and splendid politics.

Tolstoi's children are not followers of their distinguished father, in his philosophy. One of his boys is said to be fighting in Manchuria. This may not, however, prove that he holds views different to those of his father's, on that subject. He may be fighting under compulsion, as do most of the Russian soldiers. But one of his daughters is identified with an aristocratic organization of women, who are laboring in the interest of recruiting the army with volunteers. That is, evidently, a matter of choice on the part of the young lady. Another case of a prophet not being without honor except among his own!

POLITICS.

Boston Transcript.

Politics are something like French cooking. Under skilled treatment, an issue in Suffolk county, on the south side terial on the one hand as can a savory ragout on the other. The senatorial issue in uffolk county, on the south side of Long Island, is wild ducks, and the canvass is known as "the duck campaign," though the ducks involved are not exclusively the canvas-back variety. The repeal of the Brown bill is the proposition that is stirring local enthusiasm. This bill prohibits the shooting of wild fowl on Long Island after Jan. 1, while previously sportsmen had the privilege of shooting them up to May. It is claimed by them that there is really no good duck shooting until after Jan. 1, when the cold weather drives the game from the large bodies of water into the sheltered creeks and bays. There is only one side to this question, as the voters view it. Each candidate is trying to outdo the other in his zeal for a repeal of the measure.

Binghamton Press.

The people are few and far between who will not rejoice when the noisy chatter and clatter of the sparrows in politics shall cease for a space; when the bigger game-birds of the arena shall be forced to a rest and a cooling-off process; when the eagles shall quit their shrill screaming and their pluming and theatric wheelings to and fro; when the cool, calm, common sense of the average American citizen, become temporarily a display of mental hasheesk, shall resume its wonted estate and fulfill its accustomed functions free from the signs of approaching or incipient paresis; when, in short, the nation shall return to normal conditions and such a thing as political—or at least partisan—controversy be relegated for a time to the professional politicians and to those newspapers to which partisanship is the breath of life.

NEITHER SAFE NOR SANE.

New York Evening Sun.

It may be doubted whether Rojestvensky is mentally sound. Witness his wild and extravagant talk at Vigo. He was interviewed by several correspondents last night, and he said to them: "There are a thousand reasons sufficient to cause a war between Russia and Great Britain. We are all ready. We do not heed numbers, we may have to meet. I, personally, am disposed to sacrifice my life." He was laboring under great excitement. If the Russian admiral has bene truly reported, the British government should urge the Czar to recall this passionate Anglophobe of a commander.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Sunset Magazine for November opens with a Thanksgiving fantasy, by James Hopper, entitled "Locomotive Jones." Mr. Hopper is rapidly establishing a name for himself among writers of fiction, and his Sunset story, while it is, as the sub-title suggests, a fantasy, will do something toward furthering that name. The magazine contains other Thanksgiving features, as well as its usual abundance of both entertaining and instructive reading. There always is a western flavor in the entire literary dish that it sets before its many readers.—4 Montgomery street, San Francisco, Cal.

The October number of Wayside tales has contributions by Opie Read, Stanley Waterloo, Eugene V. Debs and others; short stories by Frank N. Stratton, Harvey Peake and Celia A. Shute, and poems by Charles Eugene Banks, William Lightfoot Visscher, Ean Boyd Heiney and Major S. H. M. Byers. It is an excellent popular priced magazine.—355 Dearborn St., Chicago.

The Black Cat for November comes with the usual number of thrilling short stories. They are, "The Victory of the Conquered," by Anna M. Cluse Shall; "The Hypnotic Signs," Edgar Dayton Price; "Knowest Thou That Land?" Frank Lillie Pollock and Will S. McGann; "The Making of the Bobtail Flush," William Lisenbee, and "Ella Bet," W. F. Melton.—144 High St., Boston.

McClure's for November is fairly athrill with the keenest interest in the world of men and things of today. In both article and story, it is not only pleasing but hewn close to the line of life. Stewart Edward White begins a new serial "The Rawhide." He has chosen for his present setting the desert of Arizona, and out of the long monotony of the simple lives of its people he evolves dramatic possibilities which promise a great story. The short stories of the number squarely strike the note of the hour. Booth Tarkington drawns on his political experiences for a story of politics with a character creation that will take rank with his best, in "The Need of Money." James Hopper, himself a famous college football player, leaves his chosen field of the Philippines and describes "The Passing of the Vet," a football story. Rex E. Beach mixes pathos, humor, and tragedy into a moving whole in "The Thaw at Slisco's." A stereoscopic picture of that most vital of school problems, "The Parent," is given by M. H. Carter. A. W. Rolker contributes a readable article, the biography of a New York fire-horse, "The Black Bean of 265." "Out of the Jaws of Death" is the harrative of the marvelous escape of two Union soldiers from a band of Guerrillas during the Civil war, by W. H. Sheak. The number closes with an editorial on "The Making of McClure's Magazine."—141 East Twenty-fifth St., New York.

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